

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-18 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

At the outset, it is respectfully submitted that the present application entered into the national phase before the USPTO based on a PCT application. Thus, the rules that apply to the present application with regard to unity of invention are set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.475 to 1.477.

As set forth in 37 CFR § 1.475(a), an international and a national stage application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. On September 30, 2004, when the present application was filed in the USPTO, the Examiner was provided with a copy of the International Search Report. In this report, the International Bureau maintained all of the claims in a single application based on the fact that the claims were so linked so as to form a single general inventive concept.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application does include claims that are so linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. The Examiner contends that there is a lack of unity of invention stating that the species are distinct by either adjusting the

temperature of the film or the temperature of the atmosphere. It is respectfully submitted that this contention is not believed to be tenable in view of the fact that the International Search Report did maintain all of the claims in a single application. Thus, claims 1-18 should be considered in a single application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-18. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>CLAIMS</u>
A	1, 3, 5-9, 10, 12 and 14-18
B	1, 4-9, 10 and 13-18
A or B	2 and 11

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-9, 10 and 14-18 are generic to the thirteen species identified above. Applicant has elected the species of Group A for initial examination. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should review claims 1, 3, 5-9, 10, 12 and 14-18 and 15.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains two species. It is respectfully

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submitted that if the Examiner allows the generic claims then all of the claims should be allowable in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 1,3, 5-9, 10, 12 and 14-18 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his election of species requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if they so desire.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 30, 2004. The Examiner should initial and return the form PTO-1449 to the undersigned.

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CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

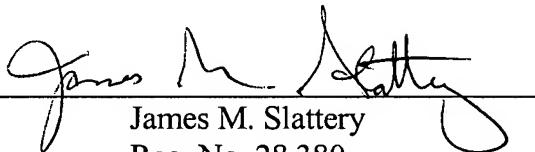
The Examiner should acknowledge the Applicants' claim for foreign priority in the next Office Action.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants.
The Examiner should approve the Formal Drawings in the next Office Action.
Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.
Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to
Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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